

REMARKS:

- 1) Entry of this Response After Final is respectfully requested. The present amendments are directly responsive to the new rejection that was raised for the first time in the Final Office Action, so that these amendments could not have been previously made. The present amendments do not increase the total number of claims, and do not raise any new issues that would require further search or consideration. These amendments merely delete the asserted new matter, and bring claims 1 to 9 into conformance with the claim formulation ("consisting of") of allowed claim 13. Also, these amendments place the claims in better form for Appeal, if that should become necessary.
- 2) Referring to section 3 on page 2 of the Office Action, the allowance of claims 13 to 17 is appreciated. This allowable subject matter is now also defined in independent claims 1 and 9, so that all claims should now be allowable.
- 3) Referring to section 2 on page 2 of the Office Action, the rejection of claims 1, 3, 4 and 9 to 12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph has been addressed and overcome in the present amendment of claims 1 and 9. Namely, the asserted new matter has been omitted from claims 1 and 9. Instead, claims 1 and 9 now use a similar claim formulation ("consisting of") as the allowed independent claim 13 for defining the composition of the aluminum alloy. Thus, claims 1 and 9 avoid the asserted new matter, and

should now be allowable for the same reasons as independent claim 13. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

- 4) Referring to section 7 on page 3 of the Office Action, rejoinder of the dependent method-of-making claims 5 to 8 is now respectfully requested, because the product claims should now be allowable. The present claims reading on the elected product invention are claims 1, 3, 4 and 9 to 17, while claims 5 to 8 are directed to the non-elected method of making the product.
- 5) Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, including all present claims 1 and 3 to 17, are respectfully requested.

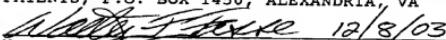
Respectfully submitted,
Akinori RO et al.
Applicant

WFF:ar/4296

By 
Walter F. Fasse
Patent Attorney
Reg. No.: 36132
Tel. 207-862-4671
Fax. 207-862-4681
P. O. Box 726
Hampden, ME 04444-0726

CERTIFICATE OF FAX TRANSMISSION:

I hereby certify that this correspondence with all indicated enclosures is being transmitted by telefax to (703) 872-9306 on the date indicated below, and is addressed to: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

 12/8/03
Name: Walter F. Fasse - Date: December 8, 2003

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